

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06839 051457Z

42

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SNM-02 PRS-01 L-01 IO-03 INR-05

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R 051330Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 620

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6839

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: A) ANKARA 6497; B) ANKARA 6516

AS HARVESTING OF THIS SEASON'S POPPY CROP APPROACHES COM-
PLETION AND AS THE FALL PLANTING PERIOD DRAWS NEARER, WE
HAVE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE POPPY CONTROL
PROGRAM:

A. CONTROL PROGRAM. REPEATED VISITS TO POPPY
REGION BY MISSION OFFICES THROUGHOUT GROWING AND HARVESTING
PERIODS, VISITS BY UN MISSIONS, AND TOURS BY FOREIGN
JOURNALISTS PLUS INTENSIVE INSPECTION PROGRAM OF SOIL PRODUCTS
OFFICE (TMO) ASSISTED BY JANDARMA HAVE UNCOVERED NO RPT
NO EVIDENCE OF INCISION. WE ALSO HAVE NO RPT
NO EVIDENCE OF LEAKAGE INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS FROM THIS
YEAR'S CROP.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 06839 051457Z

B. POPPY YEILD. UNCERTAINTY CONTINUES AS TO EXACT

SIZE OF THIS YEAR'S YEILD OF POPPY CAPSULES. MISSION OFFICER (USAID) WITH MOST EXPERIENCE IN POPPY MATTERS BELIEVES AVERAGE YIELD OF 80 KILOS PER DECARE IS REALISTIC. THE TOTAL HARVESTED AREA HAS BEEN VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 75,000 AND 80,000 DECARES. EMBOFF HAS BEEN SHOWN A TELEGRAM SENT BY TMO TO AN AMERICAN CHEMICAL FIRM IN WHICH TURKEY'S TOTAL 1975 POPPY STRAW PRODUCTION IS DESCRIBED AS "LESS THAN 6,000 TONS."

C. EXPORT PROGRAM. TMO TELEGRAM REFERRED TO ABOVE GAVE PRICE OF 2.55 PER KILO F.O.B. IZMIR FOR POPPY STRAW. AS YET NO RPT NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE REGARDING AMOUNT OF POPPY STRAW WHICH HAS BEEN SOLD AND UNDER WHAT TERMS.

D. GROWING AREA. GOT HAS YET TO MAKE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF PERMITTED GROWING AREA AND TOTAL ALLOWED ACREAGE FOR 1975-1976 GROWING SEASON. THIS OMISSION HAS RECENTLY DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OF THE PRESS (SEPTEL) BECAUSE WHILE FALL PLANTING MUST BE DONE IN OCTOBER, THE LICENSING OF GROWERS HAS YET TO BE BEGUN BY THE TMO. DELAY IN A MATTER SO VULNERABLE TO OPPOSITION AND PRESS CRITICISM MAY WELL, AS SOME NEWSPAPERS ALLEGE, BE DUE TO DISAGREEMENT AT GOT CABINET LEVEL. THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY-CONTROLLED MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK SUPERVISES TMO AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING A DECREE SPECIFYING GROWING AREA AND ALLOWED ACREAGE FOR UPCOMING POPPY SEASON.

E. ALKALOID PLANT. GOT HAS MADE NO RPT NO ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING PROPOSED ALKALOID PLANT.

F. PRESS ACCOUNTS. RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE CONTROL PROGRAM ARE COVERED BY SEPTEL. MACOMBER

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